

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03492 021426 Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /112 W
----- 085583

R 021145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9360

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS LAGOS 3492

E. O. 11652 : N/ A

TAGS : PFOR, NI, UK

SUBJ : GOWON VISIT TO UK CONFIRMED

1. FMG ANNOUNCED MAY 1 THAT GENERAL GOWON WILL PAY STATE VISIT TO UK JUNE 12-15 ON INVITATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

2. COMMENT: VISIT HAS BEEN IN WORKS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND GOWON GAVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE DURING VISIT OF UK FONSEC DOUGALS- HOME (LAGOS1368 AND 1448). NEVERTHELESS, YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT MARKS FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION THAT TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE, AND SHOULD END SPECULATION STIRRED BY SEVERAL LOCAL PRESS EDITORIALS RECOMMENDING VISIT BE DEFERRED UNTIL UK HAD TAKEN MORE DECISIVE ACTION ON RHODESIA.

3. IN ADDITION TO UK VISIT, GOWON EXPECTED ATTEND OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA BEGINNING MAY 24 AND PERHAPS COMMON-WEALTH HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SESSION IN OTTAWA IN AUGUST. NEITHER OF THESE TRIPS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED.

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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